

Victory Times



Vol. II, Issue 52 Telling the Camp Victory story

May 16, 2006

MNF-I celebrates second anniversary

Story and photos by Spc. Curt Squires
MNC-I PAO

As major combat operations in Iraq started to cease, a new element was needed to bridge the gap from tactical and operational levels to a more strategic operation of rebuilding

the Iraqi Government and security forces.

Two years ago, Multi-N a t i o n a l Force-Iraq was born and the reconstruction of Iraq had begun.

As MNF-I reaches its two-year anniversary,



reaches Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commanding general, Multi-National Force-helping wo-year Iraq, and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger, command sergeant major, MNF-I, cut the birthday cake for MNF-I, Monday.

the command can look back and take pride in its role as the catalyst for democratic change in a country of 25 million citizens, said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Mellinger, command sergeant major, MNF-I.

"Over the past two years, 37 nations with the endorsement and support of the United Nations and the government of Iraq, have made important contributions to renewed

u n i t y, security and prosperity for all Iraqis," Gen. George W. Casey Jr. commanding g e n e r a l, MNF-I, said.

MNF-I
has made
tremendous
s t r i d e s
helping to
develop Iraqi
S e c u r i t y

Mellinger. These steps will go a long way in creating a free and more democratic Iraq.

At the close of 2004 and the beginning of 2005. Casey charged various staff agencies

internal security and national defense, said

At the close of 2004 and the beginning of 2005, Casey charged various staff agencies and support units with developing Iraq's ministries. This was significant in order to help transfer the lead in counterinsurgency operations from the Coalition to the Iraqis.

"The start of year two saw aggressive counter terrorist operations along the Iraqi Borders, the Euphrates River Valley and in the Al Anbar Province which served to restrict the flow of foreign fighters and terrorists coming across the Iraq Border," Mellinger said.

In August of 2005, Casey adopted the strategy of clear, hold and build, leaving behind trained Iraqi forces to hold the cities and work to rebuild local communities.

Casey's strategy was put to the test during Operation Restoring Rights in Tal Afar, Iraq, in September 2005, said Mellinger.

See MNFI, page 3

Camp Victory Three-day forecast

Forces and helped to lay the groundwork

for Iraq to assume full responsibility for

Wednesday



Sunny High: 106 F Low: 77 F

Thursday



Sunny High: 99 F Low: 73F

Friday



Sunny High: 97 F Low: 73 F

In today's Victory Times:

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EOD remembers fallen servicemembers

Story and photo by Spc. Curt Squires

MNC-I PAO

"In the place of honor sits an empty table. It represents those who answered the call, but failed to return. The table is small and set for 15. One seat to symbolize the singular life given in defense of our nation, the 14 seats symbolize the lost Explosive Ordinance Disposal brothers added to the EOD memorial.

The table cloth is white to show the purity of their intentions answering the nations call to arms. The single yellow rose reminds us of the families and loved ones who kept the faith and remember. The red ribbon on the vase is reminiscent of the blood they have spilled while serving their country with honor. A slice of lemon is on the plate to remind us of their bitter fate. There is salt upon the plate; symbolic of the tears of the families, fellow Soldiers and comrades as they learned of their loved ones' death.

"The glass is inverted as they can not toast with us tonight. The chair is empty, as they are not here."

Those were the words of Cpt. Anthony R. Dubay, master of ceremonies, during the Third Annual Explosive Ordinance Disposal Memorial in the Al-Faw Palace Ballroom, Saturday.

It is a risk dealing with improvised explosive devices, said Col. Kevin D. Lutz, commander, Combined Joint Task Force Troy.

"This year, Task Force Troy lost a total of 13 servicemembers, which has been the largest total during the campaign," Lutz continued emotionally.

"The names and memories of these heroes still echo in our memories and will live with us forever: Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicholas Wilson, Gunnery Sgt. John David Fry, Staff Sgt. Kenneth Pospisil, Master Sgt. Brett Evan Angus, Gunnery Sgt. Darrell Boatman, Staff Sgt. Daniel G. Gresham, Staff Sgt. Russell Verdugo, Staff Sgt. Daniel Tsue, Staff Sgt. Joel P. Dameron, Staff Sgt. Johnnie V. Mason, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin P. Jessen, Gunnery Sgt. Justin Martone and Tech. Sgt. Walter P. Moss, said Lt. Gen. Peter Chiarelli, commander, Multi-National Corps-Iraq"

"I am honored to recognize with you the sacrifices of our fallen brothers-in-arms," Chiarelli said. "Your willingness to place yourself in harms way, your spirit to carry on is a shining beacon of courage to sustain the fighting spirit of our warriors and our country as we continue this fight for freedom and peace."

These are truly professional and selfless individuals who are willing to do this, said Lutz.

"I can't accurately describe what these men and women are willing to do, knowing they may not come back; that is why we had to get the memorial right," Lutz continued.

It is one of the most difficult things a leader has to go through, losing one of his Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen or Marines, said Lutz.

Prior to Operation Iraqi Freedom, EOD has not been heavily engaged since the Vietnam War.

"Now we find ourselves at the tip of the spear," said Lutz. "In the past three years, we have responded to every IED, some 35,000 IEDs in three years."

Dignity and Respect

"My squad leader cussed me out in front of the squad". "My commander uses foul language around the office." These are examples of some common complaints that the Inspector General receives from Soldiers that deal with the issue of a lack of dignity and respect. As we all know, one of the seven Army values is respect. The Army defines respect as treating people as they should be treated. Dignity is defined as the quality of being worthy of esteem or respect. In the Soldier's Code, we pledge to "treat others with dignity and respect while expecting others to do the same". The use of profane language shows a lack of respect and dignity for yourself and others and also degrades the good order and discipline of a unit. Using indecent language while addressing a Soldier, even while correcting or disciplining him or her, is wrong and violates Army guidance.

In accordance with AR 600-20, Army Command Policy, paragraph 4-1, "military discipline is founded upon self-discipline, respect for constituted authority, and the embracing of the professional Army ethic with its supporting individual values." Also, AR 600-100, Army Leadership, paragraph 2-1, states, "All leaders are responsible for treating subordinates with dignity, respect, fairness and consistency; ensuring subordinates welfare to include physical, moral, personal, and professional well-being; setting and exemplifying the highest professional and ethical standards; building cohesive teams; building discipline, while stimulating confidence, enthusiasm and trust." Lack of dignity and respect towards others erodes cohesiveness, morale and team work. Mission accomplishment in our Army is driven by teamwork. Teamwork is built on a foundation of trust and confidence within units. Without dignity and respect, there can be no teamwork. Without teamwork, a unit's ability to accomplish its mission is decreased.

All leaders and Soldiers have a responsibility to themselves and to their fellow Soldiers to positively contribute to an organization in which everybody is treated with dignity and respect. Sometimes leaders have to correct or discipline their Soldiers and make "on the spot" corrections, but that does not mean they have to degrade Soldiers in the process. Leaders can get a point across to their Soldiers without using indecent language. General Shinseki, former Chief of Staff of the Army said, "Trust and confidence emerges from our daily commitment to our army values; loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage. Without trust, there can be no dignity and respect for the individual Soldier and cohesion and moral in our units would suffer". So the next time you use indecent language at or around other Soldiers, ask yourself, are you setting the right example, building a more cohesive team, and living up to the Army values?



Submitted by SFC Carlos Runnels, MNC-IIG

Multi National Corps-Iraq Office of the Inspector General



MNFI

"This operation featured the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment and was also the first major operation where Iraqi forces outnumbered Coalition Forces in the fight," he continued.

December saw the first national election in Iraq and a change in the lead of the fight.

"Coalition Forces went from being the primary force in the counterinsurgent fight to being the overwatch element as the Iraqi Security Forces stepped forward to take the lead," Mellinger added.

The destruction of the Golden Mosque in Samarra, Iraq, in defuse sectarian violence.

The new plan allowed the Iraqi government to present a unified front in the wake of violence from Sunnis and Shi'as, said Mellinger. It allowed the Coalition to assist with efforts to control sectarian violence without degeneration into civil war and gave an Iraqi face to the response of the bombing.



Gen. George W. Casey Jr., commanding general, Multi-National Force-February led to the decision to Iraq, delivers a speech at the MNF-I second year anniversary celebration. MNF-I Headquarters was also awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award for exceptional achievement.

"MNF-I has not just been working on building up Iraq, but has also been working to build down it's presence as well," he continued. "To date, MNF-I has turned

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over more than 40 forward operating bases to Iraqi control."

The hard work of the Soldiers, Sailors,

Airmen, Marines and civilians has not gone unnoticed, said Mellinger.

MNF-I Headquarters awarded the Joint Meritorious Unit Award from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for exceptional meritorious achievement.

"This is a validation of all the hard work...day in and day out, that isn't glamorous and doesn't make the news, but is vital to everything that we do," Mellinger said.

As MNF-I begins its third year of existence, the mission is not finished vet.

"MNF-I has done an exemplary job thus far in doing something that has not been attempted since the rebuilding of the Axis Powers

after World War II and it will continue to help the Iraqi Security Forces and people build a free and more democratic Iraq," Mellinger concluded.

COUNTER - IED **HEADQUARTERS**



MULTI-NATIONAL CORPS-IRAG APO AE 09342

MEMORANDUM FOR DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: CREW - CORRECT USE

- 1. There have been a number of instances of poor use of CREW to the point where people could have saved their own lives if they knew and followed some simple guidelines.
- 2. Our top tips for correct use of CREW are as follows

DO:

- 1. SWITCH YOUR CREW ON WHEN YOU LEAVE CAMP
- 2. HAVE YOUR CREW BUDDY DOUBLE CHECK THAT IT IS ON
- STAY WITHIN THE CREW BUBBLE WHEN YOU COMMUNICATE
- GET TO KNOW YOUR UNIT EWO AND SEEK/FOLLOW HIS ADVICE

DO NOT

- 1. BLOCK OR COVER YOUR CREW ANTENNA
- 2. RELY COMPLETELY ON YOUR CREW, AS YOUR EYES ARE YOUR BEST DEFENSE
- SWITCH OFF YOUR CREW WITHOUT DOING 5 AND 25s
- 4. DEPLOY ON PATROL IF YOUR CREW FAULT LIGHT IS ON
- I FAVE THE FOR UNLESS YOUR CREW HAS BEEN PMCS'd
- None of this is difficult, but above all else remember

YOUR CREW IS AS MUCH A WEAPON SYSTEM AS YOUR ARMOR OR YOUR .50 CAL, SO ...

"FIGHT WITH IT, NOT AGAINST IT"

REMEMBER - CREW ENABLES THE WELL-TRAINED AND OBSERVANT TO OPERATE AND SURVIVE

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS

COUNTER - IED



Come Visit The **New** CUSTOM TAILOR SHOP At

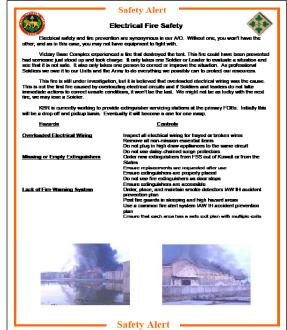
Camp Victory South

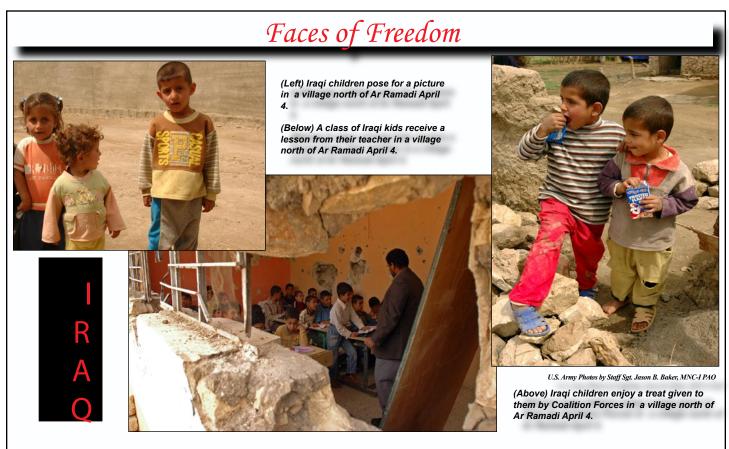
Where you will be able to order custom hand tailored Men's & Women's Suits and Garments from a wide variety of fabrics made to your specifications at a fraction of what it would cost in the states.













Chaplain's corner

Lost Hearts

"I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." Psalm 27:13

If you see the NTV bumper sticker, "DON'T FOLLOW ME, I'M LOST TOO", that would surely be mine some days. Some days I feel so lost I actively search my Bible and pray whole heartedly to find some goodness or comfort to sustain me. I'm talking about the real hard stuff – torn family relationships, life changing decision points - not those moonless nights in your LSA (Living Support Area) with billions and billions of shadowy trailers and not a clue which one is yours. (Go ahead and admit it – it's happened to you!)

With all these real cares and concerns, how are Religious Support Operations we to find comfort for a lost heart? David, the MNC-I Chaplain Office General, had the same issue – a lost heart. The

Lord became David's compass and guided his heart to comforts rest. David wrote, "I would have lost heart, unless I had believed that I would see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living." (Psalm 27:13) How can I find goodness and comfort in these words of David?



CH (MAJ) Charles M. Herring

I could highlight the truth that my ultimate hope resides not in this present life but in Even though this Heaven. is true, I believe David was speaking of an expectation in this present world, "in the land of the living," rather than the next world. Looking closer at David's hope, I see that his expectation was not deliverance from bad circumstances but the hope of seeing "the goodness of the Lord." That's something I can see even in troubled days.

Several years ago, a young Mexican paratrooper laying in the burn ward of a hospital after he tangled himself into some power lines, spoke to all of us upon his discharge from the hospital, "Flat on my back I stared straight up to

God and felt his comfort as never before in my life." Are we sometimes "flat on our backs" looking for comfort?

No matter what your circumstances, you can find confirmation of God's goodness just like David and just like the paratrooper. Keep looking for it with expectation.

Letters from home

Cpt. Steve Kwon

Hi baby! Can you believe we're celebrating our one year anniversary as well as welcoming our son into this world?! I can't wait to see you, and for you to see your son. Be safe and healthy. I love you more than you'll ever know.

-Your loving wife, Annprin





MNF-I/MNC-I

HUMAN RELATIONS/EQUAL OPPORTUNITY OFFICE

PRESENTS

PREVENTION OF SEXUAL HARASSMENT(POSH) AND SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION AND RESPONSE PROGRAM (SAPR) TRAINING





LOCATION AL FAW PALACE BALLROOM

> DATES 18 AND 23 MAY 2006

> > TIMES

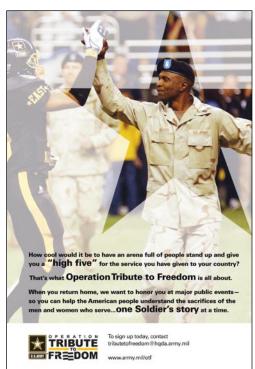
POINT OF CONTACT FOR THIS TRAINING IS THE MNC-I HR/EO OFFICE @ 822-3532/3545

SAFETY ALERT FICHGA-SA SUBJECT: Snake Bite Prevention Saw-Scaled Viper Saw-Scaled vpper. This snake belongs to a species nicknamed "carpet" vipers, which are considered the deadlest in the world. Other venomous snakes in Iraq are the Desert Homed Viper. Parsian Sand Viper, Raddle's Rock Viper and the Levantine Viper. LEAVE SNAKES ALONE. Venomous snakes are found throughout Iraq. Assume that any snake you enco venonous. Many people are bitten because they be snake, get a closer look at it, or take a picture of it. -As tacted situations permit, avoid high risk snake habitats. Locate bixouscs away from piles of brush, rocks or other debris. -Remediate conditions which attract snakes. Remove woodpiles, ror piles, construction debris, dumps, dense undergrowth, and similar shelters for snakes from your work and sleeping areas. Shere supplied valued to the ground. Practice good santation. Control ordents. -Practice "Snake Smart" behavior. Shake out bedoing and clothes DOs AND DON'TS before use. Sleep off the ground, if possible. Know that thick leather boots offer the best protection. Walk on clear paths. Be alert in areas where snakes may be hiding or sunning. In the unit compound, keep doors, windows and vents closed whenever possible. Block holes in foundations, crawl spaces, ceilings Untreated snakebites may cause serious illness or death within 1 hour. Seek immediate medical attention if bitten.

ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS
YELLOW HASH 06:15 POC MINC! Safety Office, 822-4849 15 May DR

SAFETY ALERT







ATTENTION ALL ARMY NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS DON'T DELAY! THE BONUS WILL **EXPIRE MAY 31 2006.**

TO FIND OUT IF YOU ARE ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A TAX FREE LUMP SUM BONUS UP TO \$15,000. MAKE SURE YOU CONTACT YOUR RETENTION NCO OR S1

FOR FURTHER ASSISTANCE CONTACT THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD THEATER CAREER COUNSELOR BELOW

Master Sgt. LISA PORILLO-BIRKHEAD

BLDG #135, CAMP VICTORY

DSN: 318-822-3774

E-MAIL: lisa.porillobirkhead@iraq.centcom.mil or lisa.porillo@us.army.mil









Operating hours

Coalition Cafe

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dinner 5:30 - 8 p.m. Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m.

Midnight Dining 11 p.m. - 1 a.m

Sports Oasis

Breakfast 5:30 - 8:30 a.m. Lunch 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. Dinner 5 - 9 p.m.

Shopette

Open 24 Hours

Camp Liberty Post Exchange

Everyday 8 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Fitness Center

Open 24 Hours

Post Office

Monday - Friday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday - 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday 1 - 5 p.m.

Golby Troop Medical Clinic Sick Call Hours:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - noon **Dental Sick Call:**

Monday - Friday 7:30 - 10:30 a.m.

Saturday 9 - 10:30 a.m.

Mental Health Clinic:

Monday - Friday 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Saturday 9 a.m. - noon

Post Deployment Health Briefings:

Monday - Friday 1 p.m.

Pharmacy:

Monday - Friday 7:30 a.m. - noon, 1 - 4:30 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday 7:30 a.m. - noon Legal Assistance/Claims

Saturday - Thursday 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Friday 9 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Personnel Service Support Centers

Monday - Saturday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sunday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

ID Cards

Monday - Friday

9 a.m. - 5 p.m.





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Contact Camp Liberty Post Office for any questions. DSN 302-242-4391







Submit letters from home

Is your loved one deployed in support of Multi-National Corps-Iraq? Would you like to write him or her a message in the Victory Times? Send messages, three to four lines of text to curtis.squires@iraq.centcom.mil. Ensure to include Soldiers name, rank, and unit.

Victory Times welcomes columns, commentaries, articles and letters from our readers. Send submissions or comments to curtis.squires@iraq.centcom.mil.

We reserve the right to edit for security, accuracy, propriety, policy, clarity and space.



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MNC-I Public Affairs Officer: Lt. Col. Michelle L. Martin-Hing
MNC-I PA Sergeant Major: Sgt. Maj. Paul J. Stevenson
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